(a) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Balanced and Integrated Use of Fertilizers', financial assistance is provided for strengthening/ setting up soil testing laboratories in the States/UTs. However, the scheme has no provision to extend this financial assistance for setting up mobile soil testing laboratories.

The proposal of Government of Karnataka for setting up ten mobile soil testing laboratories has not been received in this Ministry.

(b) and (c) The question does not arise in view of (a) above.

Additional Financial Assistance to Karnataka

779. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has requested for additional financial assistance to the extent of Rs. 200 Cr. for meeting the extensive damage caused to the life and property during the October, 1999 floods in the State; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposals and the likely date by which the requested assistance will be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The Government of Karnataka had submitted a Memorandum seeking assistance of Rs. 131.41 crore from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) in the wake of floods in the State. The Memorandum is under consideration in accordance with the established procedure. The National Calamity Relief Committee (NCRC) will consider request of the State Government, take all relevant aspects into accounts and approve the quantum of assistance, if any, from the NFCR, which is than released to the State Government.